

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 30, 2015

Administrator Gina McCarthy
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

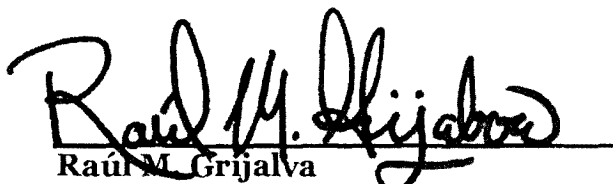
We commend the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for moving forward with an update to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone, or smog. Exposure to ozone can make it more difficult to breathe, trigger coughing and more frequent asthma attacks, and cause long-term damage to the lungs. Research also indicates that ozone exposure may increase the risk of premature death from heart or lung disease. For these reasons, we are writing to express our strong support for a science-based standard of 60 parts per billion (ppb). Despite the tremendous success of the Clean Air Act, millions of Americans are still breathing unhealthy air. A strong smog standard of 60 ppb would drive investments in clean energy and public transit infrastructure, save taxpayers billions of dollars annually in health care costs, and save lives.


Research clearly shows that air pollution harms some communities more than others. Low income families and communities of color in particular bear a disproportionate share of the burden. A 2011 study by the Centers for Disease Control found that Latinos, Blacks, Asians and Pacific Islanders are more likely to live in areas where air pollution fails to meet national standards. Further, communities of color are more likely to lack access to adequate healthcare and experience higher levels of unemployment, compounding the situation for too many families.

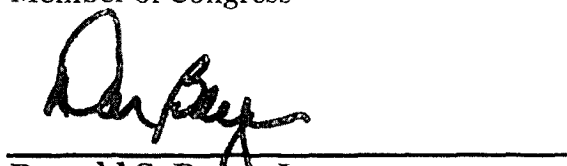
The current George W. Bush-era standard of 75 ppb fails to protect public health, not only for low income families and communities of color, but also for other vulnerable populations like children, the elderly, people with breathing ailments like asthma, and outdoor workers. A strong standard of 60 ppb will reap tremendous public health benefits. It is supported by extensive scientific research and respected public health organizations such as the American Lung Association, the American Heart Association, the American Thoracic Society, the American Public Health Association, the American Medical Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Clean air is a fundamental right currently denied to too many people. We urge the EPA to stay true to the science and seize this opportunity to finalize a strong smog standard that will protect Americans for generations to come. We look forward to working with the EPA to implement an updated standard and appreciate consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

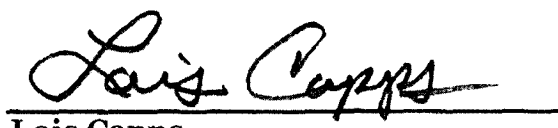

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress


Keith Ellison
Member of Congress


Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

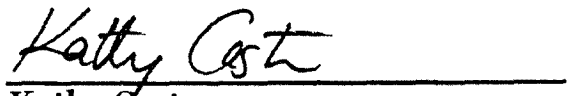

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

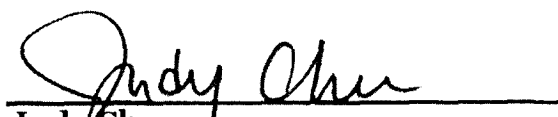

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

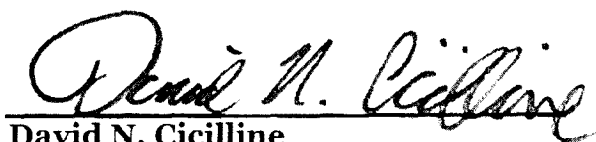

Lois Capps
Member of Congress

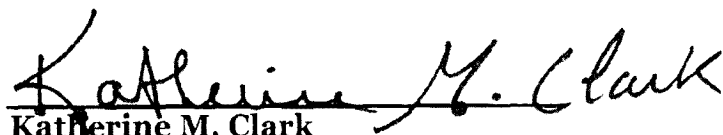

Michael E. Capuano
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Matt Cartwright
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Kathy Castor
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Judy Chu
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David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress


Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress


Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
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John Conyers Jr.
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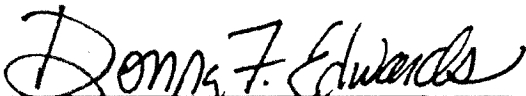

Elijah E. Cummings
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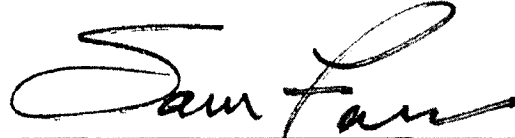

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

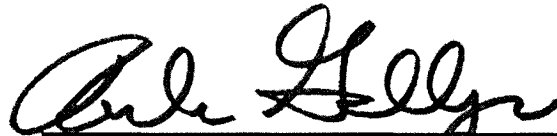

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

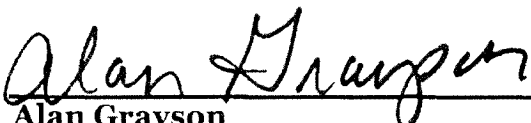

Theodore E. Deutch
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Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress

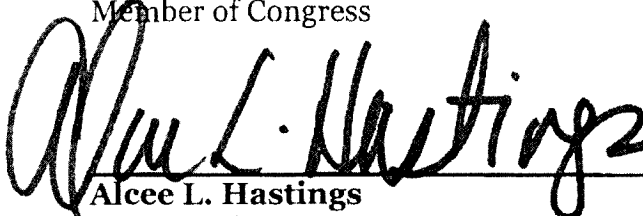

Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

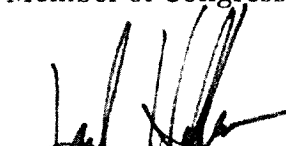

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress


Alan Grayson
Member of Congress

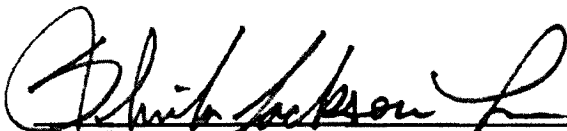

Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress


Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress


Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

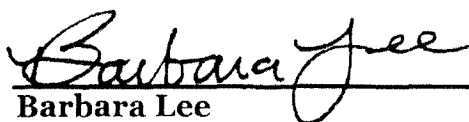

Steve Israel
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Sheila Jackson Lee
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Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



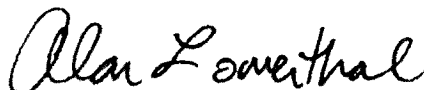
James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu
Member of Congress



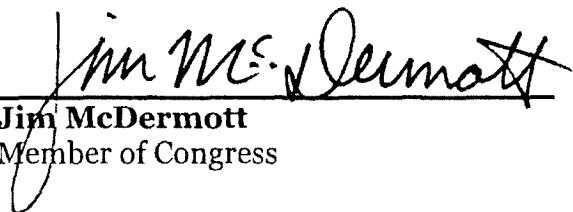
Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress



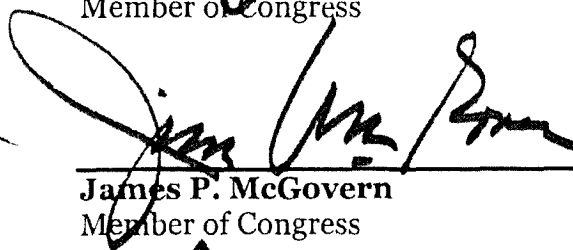
Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



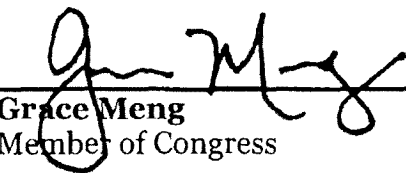
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



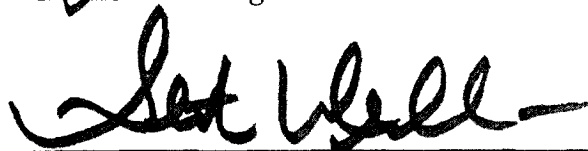
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



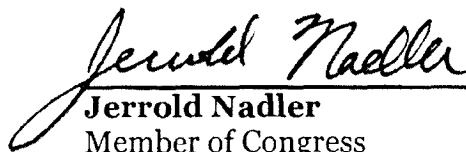
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



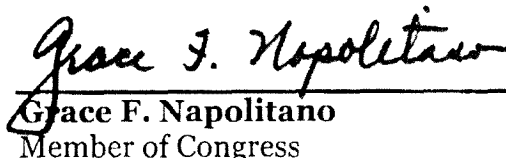
Grace Meng
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Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



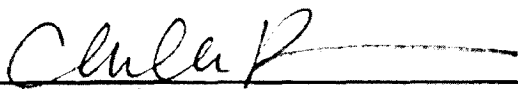
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



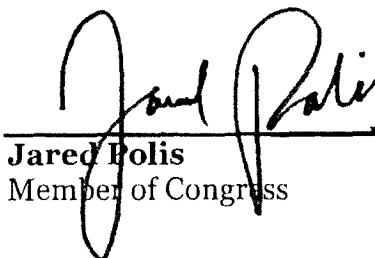
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



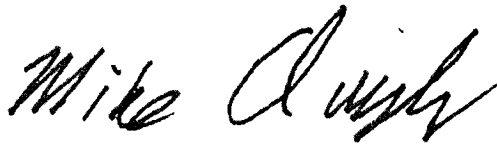
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



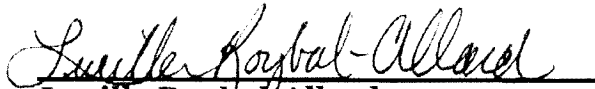
Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



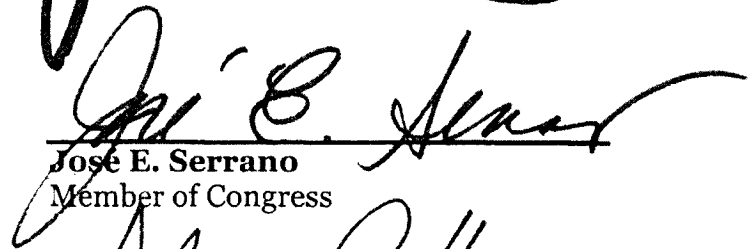
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



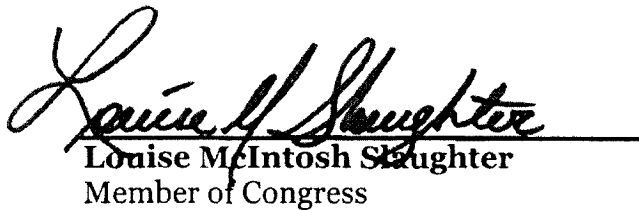
Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



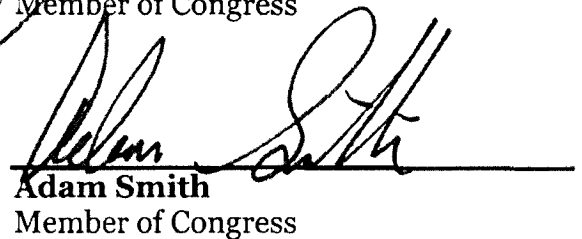
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



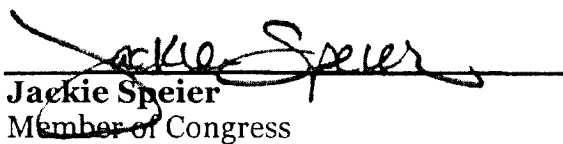
Jose E. Serrano
Member of Congress



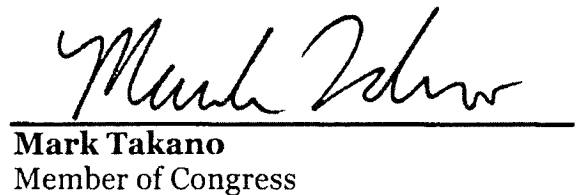
Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress



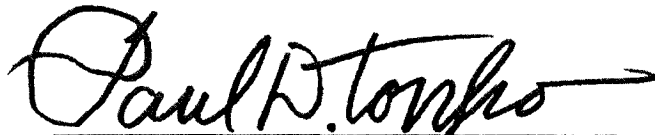
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



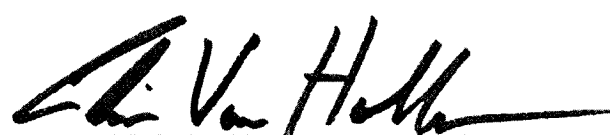
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



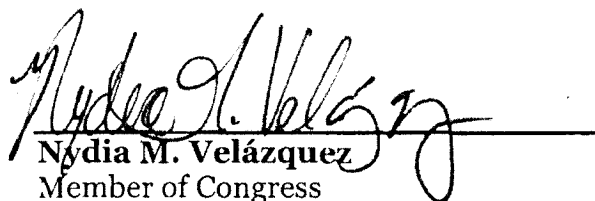
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



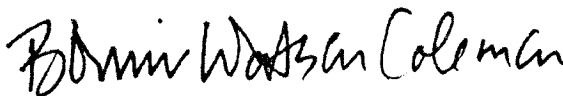
Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



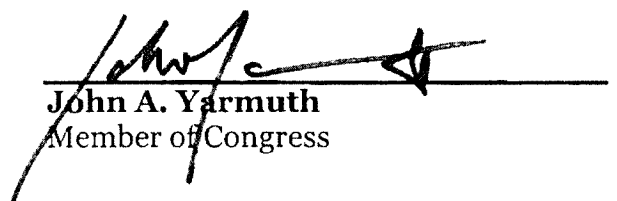
Nydia M. Velázquez
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Maxine Waters
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Bonnie Watson Coleman
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